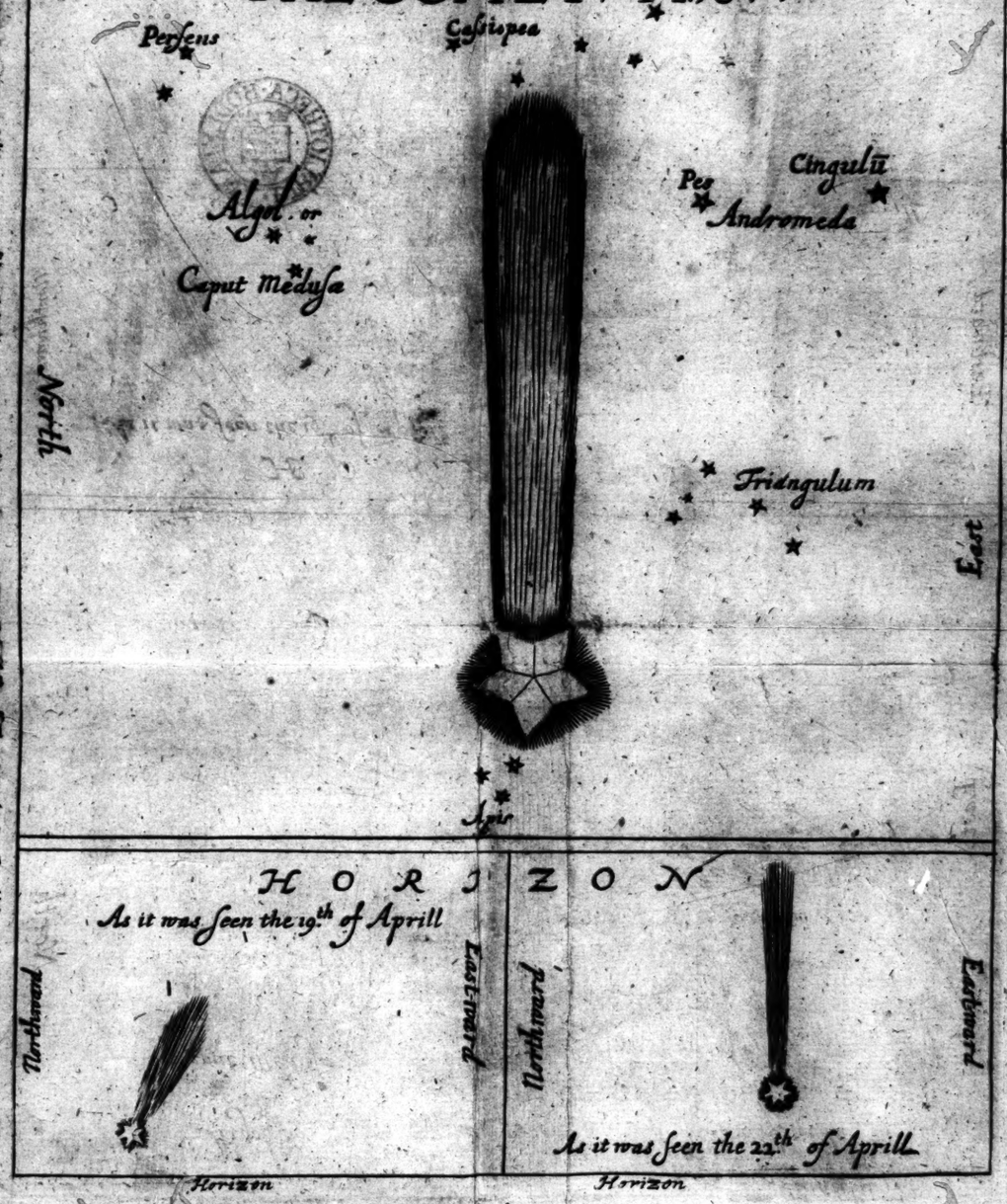
An Exact Representation of the

LATE COMET, OR BLAZING-STAR,

Which appeared in *Hamburgh* this YEAR 1677. at NORTH-EAST; Together with a Description of the Most Remarkable COMETS since CHRIST's Nativity, and the dangerous Consequences.

Translated out of High-Dutch.

THE COMET A.1077



THat hath been ever the Opinion of Rational and Understanding Men, that COMETS are the unfortunate Tokens, which God sets up in the Firmament at once to warn and Affright Men, when nothing else will do it. Who knows not, that when such unusual Lights appear in Heaven, there have even followed in a very short time after, great and bloody Wars, Plagues, Dearths, and other Publick Calamities, which have swept away infinite numbers of Men, or where their Lives have been given them for a Prey, have involved them in the danger of being Rob'd, Plunder'd, and having their Houses and Goods consumed by Fire, &c. So true is that of the Poet,

No COMET in the Heavens does appear,
But doth foretell great Plagues and Mischiefs near.

We will give you an Account of some COMETS, and some unhappy Consequences, out of Ancient, and Modern Histories, and then come to discourse of that before us.

In the year XXIX. before Christ's Nativity, appeared a COMET, the Effects of which were soon seen, not only in a very bloody War, wherein *Augustus* the Emperor overcame *Antony* King of *Egypt*, and all *Egypt* became subject to his power, but in a very dreadful Earthquake, which shake all *Judea*, and kill'd many thousands.

In the First year of our Saviours Nativity, together with a very great Eclipse of the Moon, was seen a very dreadful Comet, which burnt like a Torch for three dayes; and shortly after follow'd King *Herod's* barbarous Murther of the Infants of *Bethlehem*: nor did the bloody King spare his own Son, whom, together with other *Jews*, he caused inhumanely to be Butcher'd.

In the year 71. after Christ, there appeared a Comet in the shape of a Fiery Sword, which stood over *Jerusalem*, and was seen for a whole year together, and proved the fatal presage of the overthrow and destruction of *Jerusalem*, and the *Jewish* Commonwealth.

In the year 72. appeared another Comet of a very terrible Aspect, for it look'd like a sharp Arrow, and its Effect was, a very great Pestilence, which invaded *Rome*, and raging two years together, consumed vast multitudes of Men, Women, and Children.

In the year 323. a Comet foretold the Inundation of the *Arrian* Heresie.

In the year 454. was seen a Comet, which burnt like Fire for 21 dayes, and was possibly a presage either of the savage Cruelty, or Death of *Attila*, who burnt and destroyed all Countries he overcame, and call'd himself *The Scourge of God*.

A.C. 539. or as others 538. appeared a Comet for 15 dayes together, upon which there happened these following accidents. The King of the *Goths* was Conquered and taken Prisoner by *Belisarius* the *Roman* General, and his eyes put out by *Justinian* the Emperour. *Cosroes* with a vast Army invades *Italy*, and his Army is ruin'd by the Plague. At the same time there happen'd a very great Earthquake at *Constantinople*, which lasted ten dayes, and kill'd vast numbers of Men.

A.C. 729. in *January*, two Comets appear'd, one before the Suns rising, the other after his going down, whereupon *Leo* the Emperor met with very great Troubles in his Government, and the *Lombards* made great havock in *Italy*, and besieged *Rome*.

A.C. 745. A Comet seemed to be the Forerunner of a dreadful Pestilence, which in the City of *Constantinople* alone swept away above 300000 Men.

A.C. 828. Men took notice of a Comet, the Effects of which were very dreadful, *viz.* tempestuous, unusual Winds, which destroy'd abundance of Men and Houses, and Towns, and Villages, both in *France* and *Germany*.

A.C. 831. A Comet was seen, which was attended with a great Famine and Dearth, insomuch that in many places Parents murther'd their own Children, and did eat them.

A.C. 838. A Comet appeared, and lasted 25 days, and was the Forerunner of another great Famine, and of the great difference among the Sons of *Ludovicus Pius*, which ended in a very dreadful War, wherein above 100000 Men were kill'd.

A.C. 841. A Comet presaged the fatal War, which happen'd shortly after, between *Lotharius* and his Brethren.

A.C. 869. Appeared one, and immediately after, all *Germany* felt very great Earthquakes, as also a great Famine, and a very bloody War, which was thought would have proved the utter Extirpation of the Inhabitants.

A.C. 876. the 20th of *June*, appeared a very dreadful one in *Saxony*, whereupon in *July* following happen'd such incredible Floods of Water, as did infinite mischief both in *Saxony* and *Thuringia*, and particularly the Town of *Aschesbrun*, by a sudden and violent Rise of Waters, was carried away with Houses, Men, Beasts, Trees, and Church; and all this in one Night, insomuch that next day no Man could tell, that ever there had been a Town there.

A.C. 905. in *March*, appear'd another, and immediately upon't, the *Hungarians* fell into *Germany*, plunder'd it, destroy'd and wasted it everywhere. In *Italy* also there happen'd very great Calamities, and *Ludovicus* King of the *Lombards* chased *Berengarius*, pretending to the Empire, but was on a sudden overcome again by *Berengarius*, and at *Ditrichs-Bern* had his eyes put out.

A.C. 1005. Appeared another Comet very terrible, which presaged the violent Plague and Famine following very shortly after, in which more Men were kill'd than remained alive, and which over-spread almost the whole habitable World; and within a little while after happen'd the Holy War, which lasted 88 years, and consumed an infinite number of Men; not to mention the mighty Troubles which arose in the Church about this time about the Election of Popes.

A.C. 1165. Appeared another, and presently after, there happen'd the great Earthquakes in *Syria* and *Sicily*, which destroy'd a great number of Cities and Towns. A very bloody War also ensued between the *Poles* and *Prussians*, and betwixt Duke *Henry* the *Lion* and Marquess *Albert* surnamed *the Bear*, about the Countrey of *Saxony*, wherein *Henry* was put to flight, and which occasion'd a great quarrel betwixt *Welphus* Duke of *Bavaria*, and Palsgrave *Hugo*, who had the Counts of *Zollern* for his Auxiliaries. They destroy'd many Towns and Countries, till at last Duke *Wolf* besieged *Tubingen*, which Siege the Palsgrave came to raise, and therefore occasion'd a bloody Fight, in which the Duke was forced to flie, who yet within a very short time after, having got the *Bohemians* to be on his side, destroyed *Bavaria* and *Suabia*, and all *Germany*, to the very Lake of *Geneva*. About this time the Emperor found trouble enough in *Italy* from his Adversary, and was forced to go to *Rome*, which City very much opposed him, but was in a short time Conquer'd by the Emperor, who kill'd above 12000 men, and made himself Master of the City.

A.C. 1201. The 18 of *May*, another Comet appeared, which was a Forerunner of the bloody Invasion of *Europe* by the *Tartars*.

A.C. 1264. in *August* appeared another, which lasted three Months, and foretold the sad Fate of the Famous and Noble City of *Acon*, which by a terrible Earthquake perish'd, and was totally destroy'd.

A.C. 1312, 1314, and 1362. Divers Comets were then seen, which had this Effect, that a great Mortality of Men and Cattle, and Famine, and other sad Disasters, follow'd upon't, and especially *A.C.* 1314. the Comet which was seen, appear'd with a very long Tail towards North-west, and for a whole year together it rain'd, which occasion'd a very great Pestilence, and a very cruel Famine, insomuch that Men could not contain themselves from feeding on dead Carcasses, and Parents from eating their own Children.

A.C. 1403. *April* the first, in the Evening, at North-east appear'd a Comet, whose Tail cast it self towards the North, and immediately thereupon happen'd a great War between *Swedes* and *Denmark*, and about *December* following, such Floods of Water rose, that many Towns, Villages, Men and Cattle were drown'd.

A.C. 1472. A Comet was seen with a very long train stretching it self towards the East, and continuing above Eighty days, and causing, besides other miseries and disasters, a very dreadful Pestilence, and a very dry Summer, and such vast numbers of flying Locusts in *Hungary*, *Poland*, *Silesia*, *Mabren*, &c. that the people could not see the Sun, they flew so thick together.

A.C. 1475. appear'd another, which look'd pale, and sometimes of a blewish dark colour; whereupon there follow'd the great dearth of Corn, and a very bloudy War among three Kings, *Casimir* King of *Poland*, *Uladislaus* King of *Bohemia*, and *Matthias* King of *Hungary*; who wasted and destroyed *Silesia*, *Mabren*, *Bohemia*, and the neigbouring Countreys. And the effects of this Comet were also felt by *Victorious* Duke of *Burgundy* and *Lorrain*, who that very year, besides the loss of 17000 *Burgundians* in a Fight, lost his own life also.

A.C. 1527. appeared a very unusual Comet, and which cannot be parallel'd by any other, seen all *Europe* over, full of fire, and of a very great length, in whose Circle was seen a bended Arm, with a Sword, in a threatning posture; and about the point of the Sword appeared three Stars, with Tails, as if they were three Comets; and round about those Stars, Spears, and bloody Swords, and Faces of several Men with long Beards, lasting an hour and a quarter, a sight so astonishing, that many that saw it fell sick upon't, and died. The Effects were seen shortly after, for the *Turks* fell into *Hungary*, besieged *Vienna*, and a great deal of blood was shed. This very year, the City of *Rome* was taken by the Duke of *Burbon*, and great Insolencies were committed by the Soldiers.

A.C. 1531. appeared another Comet, seen in *Germany*, *Italy*, *France*, and in the neighbouring Countreys; a fore-runner of that bloody *Helvetian* War, in which the Towns of *Zurick*, *Zug*, *Uri*, *Underwalden*, and *Lucern* were engaged.

And much more mischief did that Comet portend, which was seen in *Hungary*, in the year 1541. which at last changed it self into the shape of a Dragon, before whose mouth was seen the Figure of a Mans Head, and at his Tail a Bloody Flame, and the Dragon turning his mouth towards *Austria*. That very year the *Germans* and *Hungarians* were totally routed and beaten. And presently after this disaster hapned a great Plague, which swept away many thousands.

A.C. 1572. and 1577. the two Comets then appearing, portended the ensuing War between *Spain*, and *England* and *Holland*; not to mention the broils and miseries which *Germany* then groaned under. And what need we speak of Comets which appeared in Ages past, when the great Comet that was seen in the year 1618. is yet fresh in many Mens memories? A Comet which lasted thirty days, and presaged a War of thirty years, which accordingly hapned, and proved a scourge, whereof the marks are to be seen yet at this day. This War was seconded by a very cruel Plague, which consumed those whom the Enemy had left alive; and it's hard to say whether more died by the Sword, or by the Pestilence.

One would have thought, when the *German* Peace was made in the year 1648. that God had then done with the tokens of his anger; but alas! in the year 1653. appeared another Glass of Gods indignation in Heaven, a Comet which presaged troubles and destruction to *Poland*, *Sweden*, *Denmark*, *Muscovy*, &c. in which Wars, abundance of Christian blood was shed.

And in the year 1661. in the *Eagle* in the Firmament there appeared another Comet, which sufficiently hinted to us, that the *Roman Eagle* was to grapple again with the Enemy of Christendom; a passage so universally known, that I need not enlarge upon it.

What the two Comets in the year 1664 and 1665 foretold, the Wars which ensued thereupon can sufficiently witness. Ask *Holland*, *Brabant*, *Westphalia*, *Cullen*, *Lubeck*, the *Palatinate*, *Alsatia*, *Brandenburg*, *Pomerania*, *Mecklenburg*, *Bremen*, *Schonen*, *England*, and other Countreys, and they'l soon tell you what the consequences of these Comets were. They'l relate to you with tears and sighs, what miseries they have felt. Go to the North and East Sea, they'll show you thousands of Carkasses, which owe their fall to the poisonous influences of these marks of Heavens anger. They'll let you see the Places of their Battels, the Bones of their kill'd men, and the Graves of those persons, who have been swept away with these inundations; and of their Tombstones you may read these words engraven, *In this place, Death in one Fight hath overcome so many thousands out of the Land of the living, whose bones are here interred. Consider the miseries of others*, and let it be remembred, what hurt, what mischief in both those years 1664. 1665. many Cities and Towns of late have been buried in their own merciless Element. Nor have the Waters ceas'd to offer violence to Men of late years; for we have had news from several places, and with amazement we have heard, what Floods have hapned up and down, to the ruine and destruction of Men and Countreys. And the Winds have been for some years so violent, that one would have thought they threatned ruine to all the Vessels that plough'd the Sea, and to all the Towers and Steeples which adorn'd the nobler Buildings. Witness the Hurricanes in the year 1674. whereof *Holland* hath felt the smart.

What the two great double-tail'd Comets, which were seen the 10 of *November*, 1677. in *Alsatia* and *Switzerland* portended, let the Inhabitants of those Countreys speak, where you might see nothing but murther, and fire, and ruine, caused by the *French* Army. Let a Man ask the famous Towns, *Hagueneau*, *Cronweissenburg*, *Deuxponts*, *Cassel*, *Newenburg*, St. *Wendel*, and many hundred Villages in that Neighbourhood, and they'll acquaint you with the sad disasters that within these few months have befaln them. The Cities and Towns which a little while ago were full of people, are now nothing but heaps of Stone, and Wilderneses, and the Inhabitants Beggars and Alms-folk, that must beg a piece of bread from door to door. Insomuch that it may now be truly said,

What new Experiment of Death and Plagues
Will Heaven invent, Alsatia, after this!
God hath tri'd all. How is thy pristine state
Alter'd, and chang'd, and turned upside down!
The Market once of pretious things thou wast,
Things which can make a place renown'd and great:
Thou went'st beyond the Countreys we admire
Things seen elsewhere, are epitomiz'd in thee.
Thy Praise is gone, thy Ornaments are lost;
Thy Coffers rifl'd, and thy Gold cashier'd,
Thy Cities ruin'd, and thy Towns laid waste:
And thus thy Garden is a Desart grown.

From what we have said it sufficiently appears, that Comets are no useless things. God grant, that the Comet which hath lately been seen, may bring us better news. It appear'd, and was seen on the 16th day of *April* at *Hamburg*; and, as those that took an exact view of it, tell us, it was very fiery, and cast its beams towards the East. Afterwards, when the Heavens were clear, and without Clouds, it appeared perpendicular, and standing bolt upright. It rose at North-East in the morning, about two of the Clock, and had its scituation betwixt the left foot of *Andromeda*, and the *Triangle* in the Firmament. Its Tail hath been observed to be of an unequal length, having appeared sometimes longer, sometimes shorter; but its ordinary length was about three quarters of a yard.

What the Learned will judge of it, will be seen ere long by their Writings. To speak spiritually of it, let every man that hath either seen or heard of it, or read of it, lay his hand upon his breast, and think with himself, That God hath sent this Comet for his sins, and threatens destruction to him: Let him search and examine his Conscience, and confess his sins, and repent, by mending his life; and without doubt this will be the best interpretation of the Comet.

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